

REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on October 20, 2009 in the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests amendment of the above-identified application in the manner identified above and that the patent be granted in view of the arguments presented. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Present Status of Application

Claims 12-17 are withdrawn from consideration. The specification and claims 7, 18 and 19 are objected to for informalities. Claims 7, 10, 11, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brandli (US 4,395,943, hereinafter "Brandli"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandli in view of Charvat (US 3,124,823, hereinafter "Charvat"). Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this paper, the specification and claims 7, 18 and 19 are amended according to the suggestion of the Examiner. The objections to the claims are thereby believed to be overcome. Claim 7 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 8. Claims 8 and 12-17 are canceled. Thus, on entry of this amendment, claims 7, 9-11 and 18-19 remain in the application.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks contained below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication in the Office Action that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Appl. No. 10/579,600
Examiner: CHIN, RANDALL E, Art Unit 3723
In response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2009

Date: January 13, 2010
Attorney Docket No. 10126581

As noted above, this paper amends claim 7 to incorporate the limitations of claim 8. Claim 7 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 9-11 and 18-19 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of the their dependency from claim 7.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests so. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. **502447**.

Respectfully submitted,

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